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INFO RUEHXX/ARAB ISRAELI COLLECTIVE  
RUEHXD/MOSCOW POLITICAL COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 005391

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 11/15/2017  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [EUN](#) [LE](#) [RS](#) [SY](#)  
SUBJECT: DEMARCHE DELIVERED ON LEBANESE PRESIDENTIAL  
ELECTIONS

REF: STATE 151231

Classified By: Ambassador William J. Burns for reasons 1.4 (b/d).

(C) On November 13, Ambassador reiterated reftel points on the Lebanese presidential elections to Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Saltanov. Ambassador stressed that Syrian attempts to influence the elections would impact on how Syrian participation at the Annapolis Conference would be viewed by the U.S. and other attendees. Saltanov expressed appreciation for U.S. efforts to invite Syria to the conference. We also delivered reftel points to the MFA Syria and Lebanon Section.  
BURNS